

DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

DISTRICT I

September 8, 2003

7:00 p.m.

Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19th, Wichita, Kansas 67214

Members Present

Council Member Brewer
Gerald Domitrovic
Lois Tully-Gerber
Lori Lawrence
Debra K. Miller
Debby Moore
Sharon Myers*
Celina Porter Robinson
James Thompson

Members Absent

Lacey Ganther*
Rickie Coleman*
Treatha Brown-Foster
Ti' Juana Hardwell*
Ken Woodard

Guest List

Betty D. Jones, 633 N. Doreen
Nancy Bluth, 6311 E. English
James Barfield, 2131 N. Edgemoor
Jack Silvers, 2319 S. Hillside
David Jabara, 5929 E. Central #100
Jolene Novascone, 4944 E. Central
Roger Matthews, 4902 E. Central
Steve Roberts*

Staff Present

Virdena Gilkey, Neighborhood Assistant
Johnny Parker, WPD

*Denotes District Advisory Board Alternates

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

Council Member Brewer called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The board deferred the approval of the minutes and agenda later in the meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

Public Agenda

1. Scheduled items

No items submitted

2. Off-agenda items

No items submitted

Staff Reports

3. Police Report

Officer Johnny Parker reported the following: 1) the new beat alignment took affect August 2003; 2) the Community Unity Day event hosted over 1600 people with 50 kids participating in Identi-Child; and 3) new areas added to the beat due to City of Wichita expansion (Rock Road and Woodlawn).

Debby Moore reported that she has had an on-going problem with a band that plays loudly in her neighborhood. She contacted the WPD and was told to call 911. The band continued to practice for three hours. Moore inquired about the new deci-meters and the officer said that the supervisor had to use the new deci-meters.

Officer Parker responded that she did the right thing calling 911 and that the parties will be cited if audible within 50 feet.

Recommended Action: The board received and filed.

Celina Porter Robinson arrived at 7:08 p.m. and **Gerald Domitrovic** arrived at 7:10 p.m.

4. Public Works

Central Avenue Improvement, between Oliver and Woodlawn

The proposal is to widen Central to five lanes with four through lanes and a center two-way left turn lane. Construction is planned for 2004.

Gene Rath, MKEC Engineering, explained that the City notified the property owners between Central to Woodlawn of the impending changes. The project is needed to improve traffic safety and increase traffic carrying capacity, which is now measured at 22,000 to 23,000 vehicles per day.

The proposal is to widen Central to five lanes with four through lanes and a center two-way left turn lane. Due to the number of right of way properties, the City needs to acquire about 5 feet on the north side of Central and east of Bleckly. Construction is planned for 2004. The estimated project cost is \$3,300,000 with \$1,000,000 paid by the City and \$2,300,000 by Federal Grants administered by the Kansas Department of Transportation. The funding source for the City share is General Obligation Bonds.

(Gene Rath's response in italics)

Nancy Bloom, 5314 East Central, inquired about the time frame with the Kellogg project and expressed that the east and west boundaries on two major streets would be "all torn up" and a huge inconvenience to persons already detouring from the Kellogg reconstruction. *Central will be under construction at the same time as the Kellogg project, if approved. However, there will be two lanes open each way for the traffic flow.* **Jack Silva, 2319 S. Hillside**, commented that as the manager of the apartments at Bleckley and Central, he is concerned about losing the garage and basement should the street be widened. *We may take a foot plus or minus at that location, but not the entire five feet.* **David Jabara, 5920 E. Central**, if the purchase of the right of way is approved, when would the project begin? **Councilman Brewer** responded that District 1 yet to see what their concerns might be. **Gordon Waybright, 5231 E. Central #B (Poppa Johns)**, said that it is estimated to take up to 18 months on this project. Once the landscaping, sprinkler system, etc. is taken out, is it my obligation to fix these things once the project is completed? *Those would be at the expense of the project, not the adjacent property owner or business.* **Sally Pembrook, 5420-28 E. Central**, asked how would the street be closed when construction starts? *None of the streets will be closed at any time. The traffic will be moved to one side at each point. There will be two lanes open (one each way). Can put a penalty clause in the contract for not getting the job done on time, so as to limit the amount of disturbance. That clause is in every contract, however, the City can put this into their specifications.*

Several other citizen comments were made which dealt with water drainage issues, signage, and property acquisition. Gene Rath explained that the City has plans to approach one or more property owner to acquire 6 to 8 feet of their property. Also, the drainage issue will be addressed with the widening of the streets. The discussion was then brought back to the board.

Celina Porter Robinson asked when the project would begin? *The current plan is to go to DAB 2 in October to present this plan. If they support this project, it will be taken to the city council for approval. If approved by the city council, bids will be accepted over the winter months with construction starting early next spring.* **Debra Miller** commented that there are several businesses in the area and at some point access to their business will be obstructed. How will this be handled? *Generally, access is made to businesses. Some times we do half access to driveways. This, however, is not true for residents, because some times we close a driveway and the owners have to park on a side street.* **Lois Tully-Gerber** requested that drainage be placed as a wish list item. She commented that she is concerned about the disruption of lives with the street widening and would hate from them to have to go back and fix a drainage problem. **Gerald Domitrovic** inquired if this is one of the top projects the City has and how much will this project cost? *Depends on the priority set. Central carries a lot of traffic – over 23,000 per day, which causes for prioritization. The cost is \$2.3 million in federal dollars, \$1 million in local funds, and \$400,000 water and sewer funds.* **Councilman Brewer** asked about the distance between the buildings and the curbs east of Oliver? *Some are pretty close.*

The board deferred the vote on this item to approve the minutes and agenda due to a quorum being reached. **James Thompson (Porter Robinson)** made a motion approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried 7-0.

Sharon Myers requested that the spelling of her name be corrected in the minutes. **Lawrence (Porter Robinson)** made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried 7-0.

Moore (Thompson) made a motion to improve Central, between Oliver and Woodlawn. Motion carried 7-0.

Recommended Action: The board approved the project.

Planning Agenda

No items submitted

Unfinished Business

No items submitted

New Business

No items submitted

Board Agenda

5. Updates, Issues, and Reports

1. **Virdena Gilkey, Neighborhood Assistant**, handed out information on the Citizen's Leadership Academy, public meeting notice, and the HUD Survey. There was a brief description on all of the handouts.
2. **Councilman Brewer** announced the following: 1) September 15th, Northeast Millair Neighborhood Association will be recognized for the dedication of the sign, 10:00 a.m.– 11:00 a.m.; 2) District 1 Coalition was well attended and many items in the media were discussed; and 3) the new shopping center at 21st & Grove is on the City Council agenda.

Recommended Action: The board received and filed.

General Comments/Announcements

- District I Coalition Meeting will be October 4, 2003, Cisro's Restaurant.
- Next meeting of DAB I will be October 6, 2003.

Being no further business, **Tully-Gerber (Lawrence)** made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Virdena Gilkey
Neighborhood Assistant